different kind of minerals found in Himachal Pradesh as on 1.4.2000 are as follows:

Quantity of Mineral Reserves in Himachal Pradesh

(In '000 tonnes)

In situ reserves	
Barytes	40930
Gypsum	4446
Limestone	48,45,124
Magnesite	294
Pyrite	2560
Quartz/silica sand	2928
Quartzite	5384
Rock Salt	17802
Conditional Reserves	
Antimony Ore (tonnes)	10588
Metal (tonnes)	174

(b) and (c) As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all the above minerals has been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the mineral concerned.

Uranium mining in Meghalaya

852. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium Corporation of India has decided to start Uranium mining in the Domiasiat area in Meghalaya;

(b) whether Government has taken any precautionary measures to protect the people of Domiasiat area from any possible radiation that might affect them and the environment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Government has identified a new site for Uranium mining in Shillong but is unable to carry out the work under the fear that Uranium mining is dangerous for the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. Uranimum Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), has decided in principle to start Uranium mining in the Domiasiat area in Meghalaya, for which various pre-project activities like preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)/Environment Management Plan (EMP) report, Detailed Project Report (DPR) etc. have been initiated and application for mining lease has been submitted to the State Government.

(b) The proposal is to open a most modern open-pit mine at Domiasiat with adequate safety measures in all stages of operation from any possible radiation and due attention to protect environment around the site.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Investment crunch in the mining sector

853. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the investment crunch in the mining sector which is likely to lead to shortage of coal production and other minerals in the next 10 years; and

(b) the details of steps are being taken by the Government infuse fresh investment to meet the projected demand for coal and other minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal has intimated that in relation to the target of production set for Coal India Limited (CIL) during the X Plan period, the funds with the company are adequate. However, the requirement of investment to meet the entire demand of coal in the country is high. The Government has introduced a Bill in Parliament to allow private sector participation in coal sector for attracting more private sector investments.